

BMCA General Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, February 28th, 2022 / 7:05-8:30 PM

Location: Video call; there was no physical meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

Minutes: *(Note: not necessarily in chronological order as presented during the meeting)*

- 1. Welcome and introductory remarks:** Matthew Philips, Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) President, welcomed the community to the virtual meeting and opened the meeting by walking through the agenda for the evening and introducing the guest speakers. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Larry Goldschmidt for his years of service to BMCA and the greater community, including his efforts to deliver newsletters to all BMCA homes.

- 2. Sandra Kalsheur, Reevesland Learning Center Gardens Update**

Ms. Kalsheur notified BMCA of the Gardens community activities for the year. Seeds for growing lettuce will be handed out free to community for planting. Unlike previous years due to COVID-19, the annual June lettuce harvesting will take place once again, with collections going towards local food pantries. The Reevesland Learning Center Gardens also mentioned that they have received a grant to expand storage and add a shed to the grounds.

 1. Mr. Chris Tighe asked if an expansion of the garden plots needed a vote by BMCA; Reevesland Gardens explained that it is not a serious expansion or encroachment, merely storage space around the back of the property. Mr. Tighe asked if this storage can be used for other purposes; the storage units may be shared if a group demonstrates a strong need, such as Arlington Little League. This shed and storage has been in plans for several years and the plan is for it to be in place before the wintertime. They promised the community to attend a follow up BMCA meeting to show storage/shed designs.

- 3. Neighborhood Conservation Program Update – Chris Tighe**

Mr. Tighe spoke about the 1st St N and N Montague Street intersection upgrades via the Neighborhood Conservation Program. BMCA has fought for 4 years for intersection upgrades were prioritized by the county – the county asked that BMCA have a voice majority vote on going forward with plans/create designs. Tonight’s vote is not on designs – designs will be provided later to BMCA by the county. 70% of the homes on the intersection have already voted to move the project forward. The vote passed unanimously, 30-0.

- 4. Update on Route 50 traffic study by BMCA Secretary Alex Cumana**

Mr. Cumana and Mr. Phillips updated BMCA on progress on upgrading the intersection of Route 50 and N Manchester Street, Mr. Phillips mentioned that new signage, a dedicated green/yellow turning light and longer pedestrian crosswalks have all been implemented. Mr. Cumana recently spoke with Virginia DOT, who mentioned they are working closely with Arlington County in the next few months to identify firm funding sources. The amount agreed to will impact the choice of the final long-term correction to the intersection. Residents once again affirmed their support for dedicated left/right turns, even if it slows traffic. Additionally, Mr. Cumana mentioned that VDOT will be addressing the issues with incorrect turns at N Montague and Route 50 with a long-term buffer to prevent incoming cars. In the interim, a temporary barrier will be raised at the location to discourage motorists from trying to turn into the street from Route 50.

5. **Treasurer Report** Mr. Rob Pilot presented the status of funds to the BMCA community on behalf of Rob Pilot. BMCA has significant resources that rolled over from 2021 due to a strong membership drive last year and limited expenses due to no social events. The current expenditures total \$350, leaving a balance of \$9,281.

6. **Ways to get involved with the Arlington Civic Federation – Presentation by CivFed Officer Nicole Merlene**
Nicole Merlene discussed the history and role of the Arlington Civic Federation, which she calls “the association of associations”. Each community association has 3 voting members and 3 delegates. Ms. Merlene explained some of the uses and benefits the association has, such as elevating local concerns to a bigger platform and provide a strong voice for residents to local government. CivFed is also working on community and mental health programs in conjunction with the Arlington police and fire departments. While voting is limited to delegates, all residents can attend. Ms. Merlene also discussed her advocacy for multi-unit dwellings for low-income housing and how those residents have a more difficult time advocating for their community. She has been working on coordinating with buildings and local government on their needs and issues. She works on figuring out levers the county has to address disrepair and ongoing concerns with living conditions and affordability.
 1. Mr. Tighe asked about Patrick Henry apartments near BMCA: are there ways for the public to know if a tenant is about to sell an old building? CivFed only knows if they have a good relationship with the owner; also matters if it is market rate affordable.

7. **Discussion On Recent Property Tax Assessment**
Mr. Phillips walked through the process of appealing your property’s assessed value to the Arlington County government. Appeal forms are due Tuesday, March 1st.

8. **Nominating Committee for June 2022 Elections**
Matthew Phillips, Chris Tighe and Alex Cumana were unanimously voted to serve as this year’s nominating committee for the June 2022 elections. The Treasurer, Secretary and 3 board seats will be elected to 2-year terms.

Next BMCA General Meeting: June 2022 (exact date is TBD).

Upcoming Events: Easter Egg Hunt (April 2022)

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Cumana
BMCA Secretary